

educational sector is concerned, a legislation for reservation for the weaker sections including Other Backward Classes for admission in Centrally aided/maintained/established higher educational institutions is before Parliament for consideration.

Scholarships for minority students

2802. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has formulated a scheme of merit-cum-means based scholarship for students belonging to minority communities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of scholarships granted under the scheme so far, community-wise;

(d) whether Government propose to increase the number of scholarships; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) Scheme of merit-cum-means based scholarship for students belonging to minority communities formulated by this Ministry is in the process. However, the scholarship is for professional and technical courses at under-graduate and post-graduate levels;

(c) to (e) In view of the above to (a) and (b) the question does not arise.

Corpus of Maulana Azad Educational Foundation

2803. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to increase the corpus of the Maulana Azad Educational Foundation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Maulana Azad Educational Foundation is providing financial assistance to all the States equally; and